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|POLICY|

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Human development

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared pursuant to Governing Council decision 90/13. Section I describes the regional consultations convened in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision 90/13. Section II describes the outcome of these consultations in accordance with paragraph 3 of decision 90/13.

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 90/13, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to assist with the convening of regional consultations, within existing resources, so that the specific human development concerns and priorities of developing countries can be identified and taken into account in the context of the future work to be undertaken on this issue. The Council also requested to be informed of the outcome of these consultations at its thirty-eighth session. The present report has been prepared pursuant to decision 90/13.

I. CONSULTATIONS IN THE REGIONS

2. The process which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helped to support and organize to consult Governments on their human development concerns and priorities was multi-faceted.

3. UNDP supported a regional workshop in the Latin America and the Caribbean region for policy-makers and development professionals on human development. The workshop took place in Brazil in December 1990.

4. Human development also figured prominently on the agenda of the Symposium on Asia-Pacific Cooperation in the 1990s, sponsored by UNDP and the East-West Centre and held in Hawaii in May 1990.

5. Human development is included in the agenda of the cluster meetings of African Ministers of Planning which were to take place in March 1991, but which have now been deferred to later in 1991.

6. While awaiting the convening of the cluster meetings, UNDP reviewed closely the discussions on human development perspectives which took place at the conference on sub-Saharan African development held at Maastricht, Netherlands from 2 to 4 July 1990.

7. With respect to the least developed countries (LDCs), the discussions at the Second United Nations Conference on the least developed countries held in Paris in September 1990 provided useful insights into the human development challenges facing this group of countries.

8. A presentation on human development was made to the June 1990 meeting of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations.

9. The workshop on social indicators hosted by the Government of Morocco in Rabat in April 1991 constituted another effort to encourage consultations on human development. The workshop was organized pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/234 of 22 December 1989 on patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development; it was supported jointly by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), UNDP and other United Nations system specialized agencies.

10. In addition, consultations on human development issues were held in all regions with a number of individual countries, in particular with those countries which have requested UNDP assistance in the preparation of comprehensive human development country studies and/or strategies. Some 15 such country initiatives are under way. In particular, the initiatives aimed at formulating multisectoral strategies for human development have usually involved high-level policy dialogue with both inter-sectoral ministries, such as those of finance and planning, and sectoral ministries at the central and, as appropriate, other government levels.

II. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS

11. Among the issues raised during the various regional and national consultations which may warrant further consideration are the following:

(a) The need to improve the measurement and availability of human development indicators as a prerequisite to more systematic planning and programming for human development. There is a strong interest in developing indicators of human development which, in particular, would lend themselves to disaggregation according to various population groups;

(b) The link between economic growth and human development;

(c) The assessment of available development experience in such areas as: the effect of the international economic environment on human development; human development and technological progress; and policy formulation, management structures and participatory processes, including an examination of the role of the private sector in human development, and a focus on poverty and gender. The Human Development Report could serve as a vehicle for the exchange of human development experience;

(d) The financing of human development, in particular the need to strengthen awareness of the synergy between the private and the public sectors and the requirement for greater efficiency in the use of public resources;

(e) The preparation of country strategies for human development in view of the importance of country specificity in human development. These strategies could include the identification of human development targets; alternative policies, strategies and methodologies for attaining these targets, drawing on analyses and exchange of experience in this area; and the design of innovative pilot initiatives, particularly of a cross-sectoral nature.